

Message Text

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OES/APT/BMP FOR WILLIAM WALSH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, JA
SUBJECT: RECENT BIOMEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN

1. NEW DENTAL X-RAY DEVICE: A GROUP OF NIHON UNIVERSITY DENTISTS HAS DEVELOPED A NEW DENTAL X-RAY DEVICE WHICH REDUCES X-RAY DOSE TO ABOUT ONE ONE-HUNDREDTH OF THOSE REQUIRED IN NORMAL PHOTOGRAPHIC METHOD. ACCORDING TO PROF. ANDO OF SAME UNIVERSITY, DEVICE CAN ELIMINATE RISKS OF GENETIC DAMAGE ALMOST COMPLETELY. NEW DEVICE MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR DENTISTS TO OBSERVE X-RAY IMAGES ON CATHODE RAY TUBE. X-RAY EXPOSURE OF 2/100 SECOND PRODUCES ABOUT 5 MILLIREMS RADIATION DOSE TO SKIN. THIS AMOUNT IS ONE SIXTIETH OF THAT FROM PHOTOGRAPHY WITH FASTEST FILMS AND LESS THAN ONE ONE-HUNDREDTH OF DOSE PRODUCED IN PHOTOGRAPHY WITH ORDINARY FILM. MOREOVER, NEW APPARATUS MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR DENTISTS TO FOCUS IRRADIATED AREA AND OBSERVE AFFECTED PART MORE CLOSELY.

2. DCG VACCINE USED TO CHECK CANCER: BCG VACCINE, NORMALLY USED FOR PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS, HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE AGAINST CANCER, ACCORDING TO STUDY BY KYUSHU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL GROUP. GROUP ANOUNCED AT RECENT JAPAN CANCER SOCIETY MEETING THAT NEARLY 10 PERCENT OF
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TERMINAL CANCER PATIENTS TREATED BY GROUP HAS LIVED FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS. PATIEHVLS WERE ADMINISTERED 20 MILLIGRAMS OF BCG ABOUT 10 TO 15 DAYS AFTER SURGERY. CBG RAISED IMMUNITY IN PATIENTS, CAUSING FIBROUS TISSUES TO FORM AROUND CANCER CELLS THAT REMAINED AFTER SURGERY. BCG VACCINE USED BY KYUSHU UNIVERSITY GROUP WAS AID TO BE OF DIFFERENT STRAIN FROM THOSE OF FOREIGN ORIGIN.

3. CYLOTRON FOR CANCER TREATMENT: CYCLOTRON FOR CANCER RADIOTHERAPY, INSTALLED AT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES IN CHIBA CITY AND IN USE SINCE NOVEMBER 1975, HAS PROVED ENCOURAGING IN COMBATING CANCER. OUT OF 129 NEAR-TERMINAL PATIENTS WHO HAD UNDERGONE TREATMENT BY DECEMBER LAST YEAR, 59 HAVE APPARENTLY EXPERIENCED COMPLETE REMISSION. TREATMENT HAS HAD NO EFFECT ON ONLY SEVEN OF THEM. TREATMENT INVOLVED FAST NEUTRON IRRADIATION TO TOTAL DOES OF 1,560 RADS OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR WEEKS. (NOTE: SCI DOSIMETRY EXPERTS WHO VISITED JAPAN DURING PAST SIX MONTHS MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL DETAILS.)

4. PROGRESS IN SURGERY FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER: AT NATIONAL CANCER CENTER IN TOKYO, A TOTAL OF 43 PATIENTS HAVE BEEN OPERATED ON FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS. ABOUT HALF OF THEM HAD 85 PERCENT OF THEIR LIVER REMOVED. OF THE 43 PATIENTS, 35 ARE NOW IN GOOD HEALTH AND ARE EXPECTED TO LIVE FAIRLY LONG. SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN MORTALITY RATE IS DUE TO EMPLOYMENT OF A COMBINATION OF TECHNIQUES INCLUDING STEREOSCOPIC PHOTOGRAPHY OF BLOOD VESSELS AND NEW METHOD OF SUPPLYING LARGE AMOUNTS OF BLOOD SERA. (NOTE: FURTHER DETAILS WERE NOT AVAILABLE FROM LAY SOURCES.)

5. KIDNEY BANK GOES INTO OPERATION: JAPAN'S FIRST KIDNEY BANK WENT INTO OPERATION TO ACCEPT REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE KIDNEY DONORS AND OFFER QUICK KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS IN TOKYO AND VICINITY. BANK IS OPERATED BY PRIVATE SOCIETY
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FOR DISSEMINATION OF KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS AT REQUEST OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE. KIDNEY BANK SYSTEM WILL COVER THE KANTO AREA ONLY, BUT SOCIETY PLANS TO EXPAND THE SYSTEM TO COVER ALL OF JAPAN IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE SHOULD USG AGENCIES CONCERNED BE INTERESTED. PLEASE ADVISE.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

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